

on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5472. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5473. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5474. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation: FAR Case 2019-009, Prohibition on Contracting with Entities Using Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment" (RIN9000-AN92) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5475. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program: Clarifying Annual Rates of Pay and Amending the Employment Status of Judges of the United States Court of Appeals of Veterans Claims" (RIN3206-AN52) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5476. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Employment in the Excepted Service" (RIN3206-AN30) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5477. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director, Office of Management and Budget, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

## PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-234. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of New Jersey expressing opposition to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's proposed changes to the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule adopted in 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

### SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 76

Whereas, In 2015, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") adopted an Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing ("AFFH") rule that established a new framework for HUD funding

recipients to meet their longstanding legal obligation under the federal Fair Housing Act to reduce barriers to fair housing and equal opportunity; and

Whereas, The AFFH rule was promulgated in response to the recommendations of the United States Government Accountability Office and affected stakeholders centered on the need for HUD to bolster its fair housing planning obligations by providing greater clarity and support to HUD funding recipients and facilitating local decision-making on fair housing priorities and goals; and

Whereas, The AFFH rule achieves these ends by providing clearer standards for meeting fair housing obligations, greater transparency, increased access to data concerning fair housing conditions and access to opportunity, and new mapping and customizable assessment tools, as well as by encouraging collaboration between jurisdictions and community input and participation; and

Whereas, The AFFH rule ultimately serves to help HUD funding recipients take meaningful actions to overcome historic patterns of segregation, promote fair housing choice, and foster inclusive communities that are free from discrimination; and

Whereas, On August 9, 2018, HUD issued an advance notice of a proposed rulemaking that would undo much of the AFFH rule for the stated reasons that the rule impeded the development and rehabilitation of affordable housing and provided inadequate autonomy to HUD funding recipients; and

Whereas, The AFFH rule has not been in effect long enough to adequately assess its effect on the development and rehabilitation of affordable housing, the rule does not in fact dictate how communities should meet their fair housing obligations, and the rule has produced concrete improvements in fair housing, such as the commitment of Chester County, Pennsylvania to reduce the number of Section 8 recipients living in high-poverty census tracts by five percentage points; and

Whereas, It is altogether fitting, proper, and in the public interest, for this House to express opposition to HUD's proposed rulemaking that would upend the AFFH rule and exacerbate housing inequities in both this State and across the United States; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

1. This House expresses its opposition to and disapproval of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's proposed rulemaking revising its Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule adopted in 2015.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the President and Vice President of the United States, the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and each member of Congress elected from this State.

POM-235. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to eliminate funding disparities among land-grant institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

### ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION NO. 125

Whereas, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have been providing a crucial means for the educational and economic advancement of African-Americans for more than a century; and

Whereas, By serving the African-American community, HBCUs serve all Americans by preparing gifted young men and women to achieve their dreams and succeed in their life goals; and

Whereas, Today, there are more than 100 HBCUs in the United States, all of which embody many of our most deeply cherished values such as equality, diversity, opportunity, and hard work; and

Whereas, HBCUs have their roots in the federal Morrill Act of 1862, which required that each state have at least one land-grant institution. Historically, most of these institutions have been predominantly white. Since African-Americans were barred from many of these land-grant institutions, a second Morrill Act was adopted in 1890 requiring states to show that race was not a factor in the admission criteria of land-grant institutions or else they would lose federal funding; and

Whereas, Instead of unifying the institutions, some states opted to create separate land-grant colleges for African-Americans, which allowed those states to keep segregated colleges and at the same time not lose federal funding; and

Whereas, 1890 land-grant institutions—HBCUs—have largely received less funding per student when compared to their 1862 land-grant counterparts, in some instances receiving only half the funding given to other institutions; and

Whereas, It should be a public policy goal of the federal government to enact laws aimed at eliminating the existing funding inequity between HBCUs and 1862 land-grant institutions; and

Whereas, By increasing funding to HBCUs, the federal government would be providing vital support to these institutions as they continue their endeavor to improve the quality of life of African-Americans by providing them with high quality education; and

Whereas, It is important, therefore, that Congress and the President of the United States enact legislation which eliminates the existing funding inequities between HBCUs and 1862 land-grant institutions in order to have equal education opportunity through equal funding for all land-grant institutions; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. The General Assembly of the State of New Jersey respectfully urges Congress and the President of the United States to enact legislation aimed at eliminating the existing funding inequity between Historically Black Colleges and Universities, which are the 1890 land-grant institutions of higher education, and the 1862 land-grant institutions of higher education.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the President and Vice-President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and to every member of New Jersey's Congressional delegation.

POM-236. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to explore further avenues of relief for businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

### SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 130

Whereas, The COVID-19 Pandemic has dramatically affected Michigan and the United States. The first cases in Michigan were reported on March 10, 2020, and since these initial reports more than 56,000 cases have been confirmed and more than 5,000 Michiganders have lost their lives to the novel coronavirus. Nationally, there have been more than 1.7 million cases and 100,000 deaths; and

Whereas, Mitigating the spread of the virus has required extraordinary public health

measures. Governor Gretchen Whitmer has issued executive orders prohibiting large gatherings, closing all primary and secondary schools, and requiring the temporary closure of all nonessential businesses. At the federal level, the White House Coronavirus Task Force's guidelines recommended the closure of places where people gather, including businesses, where there is evidence of community transmission. While some industries and regions of the state have begun to partially reopen, it is unclear how long mitigation measures will be necessary before normal operations can resume; and

Whereas, These measures have greatly impacted the livelihoods of business owners across the state and our nation. With the forced closures, small business owners have been forced to lay off workers and forgo income for months, while still needing to make payments for utilities, mortgages and rent, and other expenses. According to a survey by the Small Business Administration of Michigan, one in seven, or about 14 percent, of small businesses are not confident that they will survive the Pandemic. Nationally, a survey found that 7.5 million small businesses are at risk of shutting down; and

Whereas, Federal and state governments have a responsibility to assist small businesses since government mitigation measures, while for the greater good, contributed significantly to the current economic crisis. The economic uncertainty and devastation caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic and the related mitigation policies are not the fault of small business owners. It would be unjust to fail to help them and to allow them to bear an unfair share of the burden of addressing this crisis; and

Whereas, The failure of these businesses could have wide ranging negative effects for Michigan and the United States. Since the beginning of the crisis, more than 40 million Americans have filed for unemployment, including more than 1.7 million in Michigan. If small businesses are unable to reopen, many of these claimants may not be able to return to work, magnifying the already devastating economic impact of COVID-19; and

Whereas, The small business relief already enacted by Congress is not sufficient to mitigate these effects. As part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Congress created the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to provide loans to small businesses. Even though additional money was subsequently appropriated to the program, the PPP has been unable to prove relief to millions of small businesses that have been affected by the crisis: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate,* That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to explore further avenues of relief for businesses affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic; and be it further

*Resolved,* That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-237. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to immediately send humanitarian aid to Lebanon in response to the Beirut port explosion; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 303

Whereas, On August 4, 2020, a cache of the chemical substance ammonium nitrate which was being stored in a warehouse on the Port of Beirut in Lebanon caught fire, resulting in an explosion that killed more than

150 people and wounded over 5,000 others. According to experts, the blast registered on seismographs at 3.3, and the blast was the third most powerful explosion in history after Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan during World War II; and

Whereas, In addition to the tragic loss of life, the explosion has largely destroyed the port and its infrastructure, which was responsible for 60 percent of Lebanon's imports and was one of the largest and busiest ports on the eastern Mediterranean Sea. As a result of the explosion, most of the city's grain reserves and food imports were destroyed, which is likely to cause widespread food insecurity for years to come. In addition, the city of Beirut is suffering billions in damages, with the explosion shattering glass as far as 15 miles from the scene. In response to the widespread devastation from the blast, a two-week state of emergency has been declared; and

Whereas, The people of Lebanon were already suffering from daily power outages, a lack of safe drinking water, food and fuel shortages, and limited public health care before the explosion. The COVID-19 Pandemic exacerbated these issues, resulting in Lebanon's worst economic crisis since the 1975-1990 Civil War. Now with the devastation from the explosion, it has become nearly impossible for the Lebanese people to obtain basic human rights without humanitarian aid; and

Whereas, Rescue efforts have been hampered by the lack of electricity, and medical professionals are stitching the wounded in the streets under their cellphone lights. Public Health Minister Hamad Hassan said Lebanon's health sector is short of beds and Jacked the equipment necessary to treat the injured and care for patients in critical condition. Meanwhile, many buildings and homes have been reduced to an uninhabitable mess of glass, leaving as many as 300,000 people homeless. Furthermore, the toxic gases released from the explosion, combined with the impact of COVID-19 and the thick Mediterranean summer air, have created a deeply oppressive atmosphere where the people of Beirut cannot breathe; and

Whereas, Lebanon's Prime Minister Hassan Diab and his government have stepped down after citing mass corruption that contributed to the disaster. Before the resignation, Prime Minister Hassan Diab made a plea to other countries for aid. France, Russia, Iraq, and Iran have sent planes full of doctors, medical supplies, medication, and more to help Lebanon through this crisis: now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives,* That we urge the Congress and President of the United States to send humanitarian aid in the form of medical supplies, medications, and emergency funding to Lebanon in the wake of the Beirut Port Explosion, and be it further

*Resolved,* That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-238. A resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Oberlin, Ohio, expressing the support for the passage of Senate Joint Resolution 6 to remove the deadline for state ratification of the equal rights amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-239. A resolution adopted by the Pennsylvania State Council of the Junior Order United American Mechanics memorializing its opposition to the desecration and destruction of American war monuments in this country; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-240. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to recipients of public financial assistance; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-241. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to territory and statehood status; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Eric J. Soskin, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Transportation.

\*Sarah E. Feinberg, of West Virginia, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

\*Chris Koos, of Illinois, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

\*Robert E. Primus, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2022.

\*Theodore Rokita, of Indiana, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for the remainder of the term expiring January 3, 2021.

\*Theodore Rokita, of Indiana, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term expiring January 3, 2026.

By Mr. JOHNSON for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

\*John M. Barger, of California, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring October 11, 2022.

\*Christopher Bancroft Burnham, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring September 25, 2024.

\*Frank Dunlevy, of California, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring September 25, 2022.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 4584. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to modify the definition of water heater under energy conservation standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 4585. A bill to maintain prompt and reliable postal services during the COVID-19 health emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 4586. A bill to amend the CARES Act to require the uniform treatment of nationally